

Recreation Department
Joseph Connelly, Director of Recreation

TOWN OF ARLINGTON



Recreation Department

PARK COMMISSIONERS

Shirley Canniff
Leslie Mayer
Jen Rothenberg
Phil Lasker
Scott Walker
Josh Fenollosa - Associate
Sarah Carrier- Associate

MEETING NOTICE

The Park and Recreation Commission

Tuesday, August 8, 2023

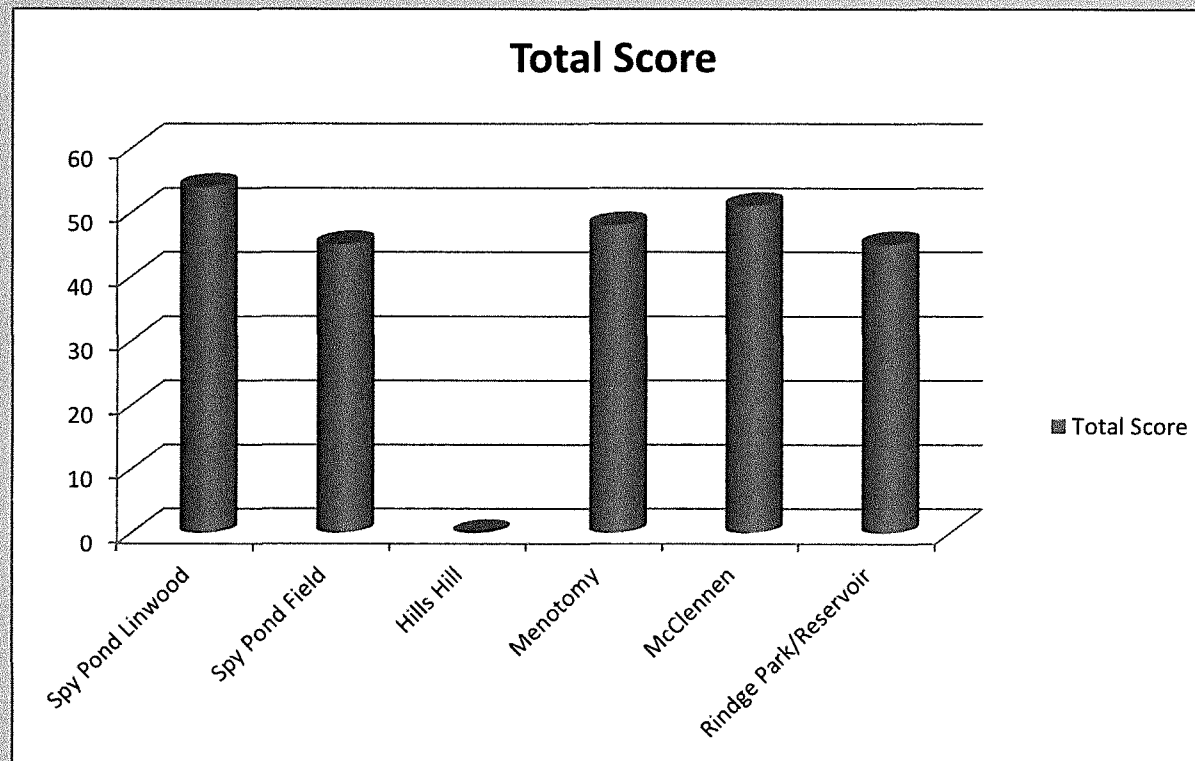
7:00 PM

Arlington Community Center – 27 Maple Street – 2nd Floor BOH Meeting Room

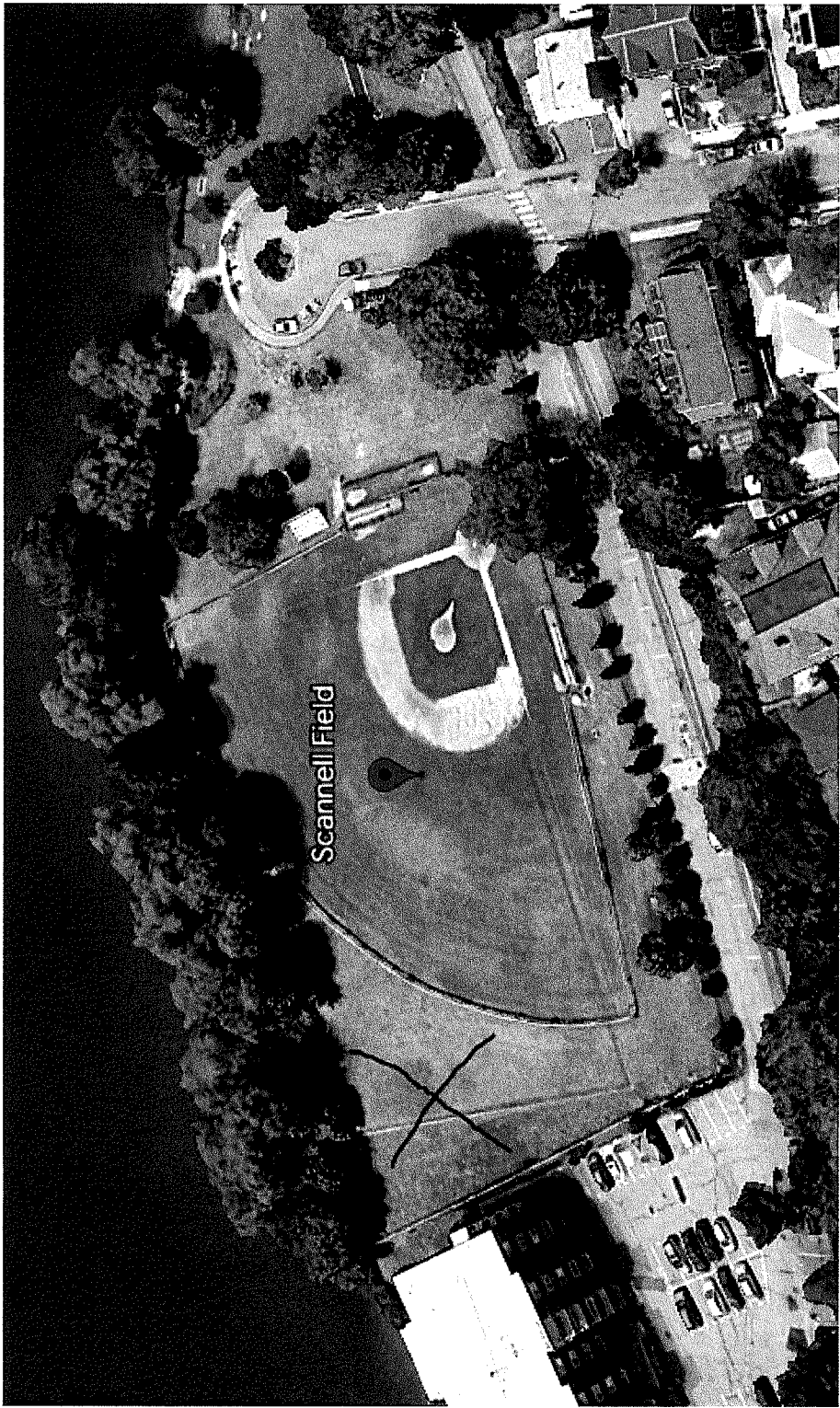
AGENDA

- 1) Community Garden Working Group Recommendation
- 2) Capital Plan Review for FY 2025 CPA and Capital Requests
- 3) Capital Updates
 - a) Menotomy Rocks Play/Picnic Area & Parallel Design RFPs
 - b) Hills Hill Mountain Biking Design RFP
 - c) Robbins Playground Construction RFP
- 4) Approval of Minutes – 7/12/2023
- 5) Comments and Items for Future Meetings:
 - a) Off Leash Hours & Request for Hours at Parallel and Menotomy Woods
- 6) Correspondence Received: Off Leash Hours Menotomy (A. Pollack), Open Space Thank You
- 7) New Business
- 8) Public Comment

Category/Park	Spy Pond Linwood	Spy Pond Field	Hills Hill	Menotomy	McClennen	Rindge Park/Reservoir
Total Score	54	45	0	48	51	45
Distance to Public Housing/Commuting Stop	12	12		6	6	6
Water Source	9	6		6	9	6
ADA Accessibility	12	6		12	12	9
Accessibility for Vehicles	9	12		12	12	12
Soil Condition	0	0		0	0	0
Other Site Amenities	12	9		12	12	12
Number of possible plots	20+	10+		5+	20+	10+
Total Score	54	45	0	48	51	45
Notes	Part of greater project	Behind Bleachers/Terraced		Have to space	Near picnic table	Remote, in Lexington
		*Future Project				



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F/Parks/APRCFY2007

Parks as builders of community

Alix Pollack <pollackalix46@gmail.com>

Sat 7/8/2023 1:43 PM

To: Joe Connelly <jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us>

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Mr. Connolly,

I understand you see parks as a way to build community.

It is well-known that people meet through their dogs. For more than 20 years, I have benefitted from my interactions with other dog owners at Menotomy Rocks Park. Since the strict enforcement of no off-leash dogs in the woods, four of my friends no longer come to the park. Our dogs need the freedom to sniff, and play in the woods, and we need the exercise of the up-hill walk.

For a number of years, my dog was part of an informal play group. We were careful to stay out of the way of others, and the woods were the safest place. When the husband of one member died, we attended the funeral and helped arrange for food after the ceremony. The group no longer exists because 3 members no longer come to the park.

Gooley Crooks, was a feature at Menotomy, where she walked her shelties: Andy, Julia, and Lulu. Gooley was a photographer for breeders and helped many find dogs. Upon her death, neighbors adopted her dogs; creating a sheltie playgroup that exists to this day. We still have parties, though we rarely come to the park. Ages of group members range from late 30's to mid 80's. After receiving a warning, the youngest member of the group, fearful of a \$75 ticket, no longer feels comfortable at Menotomy.

I introduced another friend to the park, where she used to come almost daily. She is now a member of a book group whose members are dog owners from the park.

I have attended two "doggie birthday parties" in the back field at Menotomy where everyone at the park was invited.

Of course, meeting at Menotomy during Covid in a safe outdoor environment was a god-send for people like me who live alone.

I am sure there are many more examples of friendships and groups formed by dog owners at Menotomy. I highly recommend a book written by Matthew Gilbert, TV critic for the Boston Globe, called "Off The Leash: A Year at the Dog Park," (2016) in which he describes the community at Amory Park in Brookline. You should, at least, read the preview on Amazon.

On summer evenings, I often take my dog to the WinnBrook School in Belmont where tennis players, young children and parents at the playground, kids shooting hoops and practicing soccer, high school students playing volleyball, and off-leash dogs all co-exist with no rancor. There seems to be room for everyone. I hope Menotomy Rocks can again become such a place.



Arlington Open Space Committee

To: Joseph Connelly, Recreation Director; Phil Lasker, Park and Recreation Commission Chair;
Michael Rademacher, Public Works Director; David White, Reservoir Committee Chair

Date: July 21, 2023

Dear Joe, Phil, Mike, and David,

The Open Space Committee wishes to express our deep appreciation for the installation of a bench at the Arlington Reservoir in honor of Ann LeRoyer. This is a wonderful tribute to Ann's decades of volunteerism, focused on Arlington's open spaces. Please pass on our thanks to those at the Recreation Department, Park and Recreation Commission, Public Works Department, and Reservoir Committee who helped make this happen. Bravo!



Here is Ann's response to the news:

*I don't know what to say... this is indeed an honor, but it's rather overwhelming to be called out in this way. I truly appreciate the efforts of everyone who advocated for this recognition and made it happen.
The Reservoir is my favorite go-to place in town, and I am so pleased to be associated with it in this way. Thank you all from the bottom of my heart!!*

Sincerely,

Wendy Richter and Elisabeth Carr-Jones on behalf of the Open Space Committee

Cc: Eric Helmuth, Select Board Chair; Sandy Pooler, Town Manager